



---

# 2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

---

## Customer Focus —

Leon and Joyce Ripley of Maple Corner Farm, located in Hampden County, sold a permanent conservation easement to the United States under the Wetland Reserve Program. The 19.5 acre easement was used as hayland and pasture in the past and contains a perennial stream which feeds a drinking water supply reservoir.

Upon initial evaluation, it was found that the site provided habitat for the American bittern (a State listed endangered species). With input from the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the landowner and NRCS developed a restoration plan for the site that would protect and enhance the bittern habitat. The plan included the installation of water control leveling devices and scheduled mowing in portions of the sedge/hay meadow in order to maintain nesting habitat.

In addition to providing endangered species habitat and water quality protection to a sensitive watershed, the easement also offers an aesthetic backdrop to cross country skiers utilizing Maple Corner Farm's ski touring center.

## Massachusetts Summary

### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

In Massachusetts, WRP helps landowners restore and permanently protect wetlands that have historically been altered for agricultural production purposes. Interest in restoring tidal marshes is high and thus these lands are given strong consideration during the WRP application process.

### Accomplishments

Through WRP, Massachusetts NRCS has secured two permanent conservation easements and one restoration cost-share agreement. The easements cover 30 acres of fresh water wetland and the restoration agreement will restore 19 acres of tidal marsh that was previously diked, drained and used for hay production.

### Program Benefits

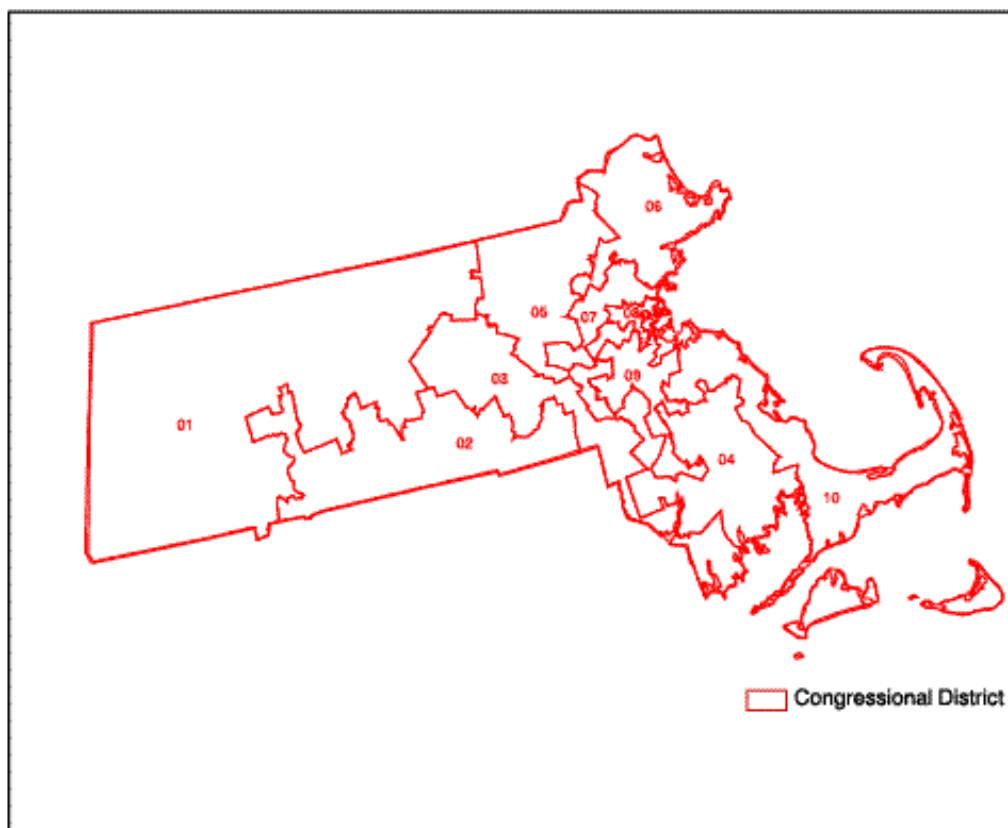
WRP is helping the overall effort of partnering agencies and organizations to restore the Commonwealth's wetlands.

### State contact

Rick DeVergilio, State Resource Conservationist, 451 West Street, Amherst, MA 01002.  
Phone: (413) 253-4379. Email: [rick.devergilio@ma.usda.gov](mailto:rick.devergilio@ma.usda.gov).



## Massachusetts Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Massachusetts Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (1995-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	0	0	\$18,500	1
District 2	0	0	\$19,000	1
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	0	0	0	0
District 7	0	0	0	0
District 8	0	0	0	0
District 9	0	0	0	0
District 10	0	0	\$45,000	1
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>	<b>3</b>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.